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31 January 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Moon Phases

1. You might find the attached of some interest and value. It is a handy gamesmanship device for possible use downtown but also has more serious uses since much enemy action in Indochina is indeed keyed to the moon phase (to inhibit night-time aerial observation or interdiction).

2. From the moon data, the North Vietnamese surge we are anticipating would seem most likely to come somewhere between 9 and 17 February, with the 12-14 dates the optimum ones within that range. If I were calling the shots, I would key on the night of 11/12 February since that would give me about nine days of relative moon darkness to count on in getting my offensive rolling. The first night of Tet (14/15) might offer itself for consideration on other grounds, but since Hanoi cannot count on that kind of surprise again, there would not be much point in wasting three good nights after the 11th.

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George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

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